

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7722

Tariff filing of Catamount/Bolton Water and)
Sewer Company, LLC, requesting a 269%)
increase in its rates, to take effect on a)
service-rendered basis April 1, 2011)

Order entered: 4/13/2011

PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Catamount/Bolton Water and Sewer Company, LLC ("Company"), submitted a proposed tariff to the Public Service Board ("Board") on January 24, 2011, which was to take effect on a service-rendered basis on April 1, 2011. After the Clerk of the Board notified the Company of deficiencies in its submission, the Company made a revised tariff filing on February 3, 2011 (Tariff Filing #8209-A). The Company subsequently filed a letter on March 18, 2011, in which it withdrew certain requests and clarified other matters related to its tariff filing. The Company is currently seeking a 269% rate increase for water service and the creation of four new rate classes.¹

On March 17, 2011, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") informed the Board that it had reviewed the filing and, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 225, recommended that the Board suspend the proposed rate changes, and open an investigation. On

1. The authorization of three of these rate classes is apparently required so that the Company can continue a long-standing, though previously unauthorized, billing practice. The Company's proposed General Rate Tariff would add LDI-23 Rooms, Lodge Condos and Sports Club Condos as separate customer classes so as to allow the Company to continue to bill these three condominium associations rather than the owners of the individual condominium units. The Company is no longer proposing any change to its practice of billing members (condominium unit owners) of ten other condominium associations served by the Company. (The Company originally proposed to change its tariff so that it also could bill these condominium associations directly instead of their members.) The Company also proposes a new rate class for five-bedroom units to supplement the one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom rate classes it has in its 2003 General Rate Tariff. See Company's letter to the Board filed on March 18, 2011.

March 25, 2011, the Board issued an Order suspending the tariff filing, opening an investigation and setting a date for a prehearing conference.

A prehearing conference was convened on April 7, 2011. Geoffrey Commons, Esq., appeared for the Department and Joslyn Wilschek, Esq., of Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer, PC, appeared for the Company.

The parties proposed a preliminary schedule for this proceeding assuming a stipulated settlement, with a litigation schedule to be determined later if no settlement is reached. The following schedule is adopted:.

Rolling discovery by the Department until	May 13, 2011
Responses to discovery due within	One week after request
Prefiled Testimony of Mr. Williams for Company re system improvements	April 22, 2011
Deadline for Motions to Intervene	April 29, 2011
Responses to Motions to Intervene	May 6, 2011
Public Hearing	May 18, 2011
Parties to file either a stipulation or a proposed litigation schedule	May 23, 2011
Technical Hearing (assumes stipulation)	June 13, 2011

Based on the comments that the Board has received about the tariff filing, there seems to be a high degree of interest in these proceedings among the Company's customers. As soon as possible, the Company shall prepare and submit a form of public hearing notice first for review by the Department and then for Board approval. Upon approval of the form of notice, the Company should make arrangements to mail individual notice of the public hearing to each of its customers² in a timely fashion so as to ensure that its customers receive sufficient advance notice of the public hearing.

2. In addition to all other customers, such notice shall be sent to the members of LDI-23 Rooms, Lodge Condos and Sports Clubs Condos (that is, the condominium unit owners) as well as to these condominium associations. If the Company does not have mailing addresses for these members (given its long-standing billing practices), the Company is requested to obtain such addresses from these condominium associations or to arrange for these condominium associations to mail such notices to its members.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 13th day of April, 2011.

s/ Lars Bang-Jensen

Lars Bang-Jensen
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: April 13, 2011

ATTEST: s/ Judith C. Whitney
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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